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Listing of Claims:

- 1 (original): An apparatus for use with a printhead, comprising:
a cap configured to define a first opening and to have a sealing member that abuts the printhead;
a vent coupled to the first opening; and
a reservoir coupled to the cap via the vent and configured to be isolated from ambient as the sealing member abuts the printhead.
- 2 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the reservoir is configured to retain vapor from the printhead.
- 3 (original): The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the vent is configured to have a length and a cross-sectional area, and further wherein the length of the vent is greater than the cross-sectional area of the vent.
- 4 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a humectant in the reservoir.
- 5 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the reservoir has a fixed volume.
- 6 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1, in a printing device.
- 7 (original): An apparatus for capping a printhead, comprising:
a diffusion path;
a first cavity having a first opening coupled to the diffusion path; and
a second cavity having a second opening coupled to the diffusion path and configured to communicate with the first cavity via the diffusion path;
wherein the diffusion path, first cavity, and second cavity are sealed from ambient during capping of the printhead.
- 8 (original): The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the second cavity is configured to store vapor from the printhead.
- 9 (original): The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the diffusion path is sized to help minimize loss of vapor from the second cavity when the printhead is uncapped.
- 10 (original): The apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a humectant in the second cavity.
- 11 (original): The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the second cavity has a fixed volume.
- 12 (original): The apparatus of Claim 7, in a printing device.
- 13 (original): A method for use in a printing device having a printhead, comprising:
capping the printhead;

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diffusing pressure variations caused by capping into a fixed volume; and
sealing the printhead and fixed volume from ambient during capping.

14 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the printing device includes a plurality of printheads and further comprising isolating each of the printheads from communication with one another.

15 (original): The method of Claim 13, further comprising retaining vapor from the printhead in the fixed volume.

16 (original): The method of Claim 15, further comprising limiting loss of vapor from the fixed volume.

17 (original): An apparatus for use in a service station, comprising:
a plurality of caps each including an opening and each configured to engage a printhead during nonuse; and
a plurality of separate chambers each of which is coupled to a different cap via a different opening, each of which is isolated to receive vapor from a single printhead, and each of which is sealed from ambient during cap and printhead engagement.

18 (original): The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein each chamber is configured to accommodate pressure variations occurring during cap and printhead engagement.

19 (original): The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a plurality of conduits configured to couple the chambers to the caps.

20 (original): The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the conduits are configured to minimize loss of vapor during periods of printhead use.

21 (original): The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the conduits are the same length.

22 (original): The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a humectant in each chamber.

23 (original): The apparatus of Claim 17, in a printing device.

24 (original): An apparatus for use in a printing device having a printhead that includes a plurality of nozzles, comprising:

means for protecting the printhead during periods of nonuse;
means for diffusing pressure variations occurring during engagement between the means for protecting and the printhead to help prevent nozzle depriming; and
means for isolating the printhead from ambient during engagement between the means for protecting and the printhead.

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25 (original): The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising means for collecting vapor released from the printhead during engagement between the means for protecting and the printhead.

26 (original): The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising means for limiting loss of vapor from the means for collecting during use of the printhead.

27 (currently amended): A method for use in a printing device having a printhead that includes a plurality of nozzles, comprising:

capping the printhead with a cap during periods of nonuse;

connecting the cap to a fixed volume;

diffusing between the cap and fixed volume pressure variations that occur during capping of the printhead; and

isolating the printhead, cap, and the fixed volume from ambient during capping of the printhead.

28 (original): The method of Claim 27, wherein the printing device includes a plurality of printheads and further comprising isolating each of the printheads from communication with one another.

29 (currently amended): The method of Claim 27, further comprising collecting with a humectant vapor released from the printhead during capping of the printhead.

30 (original): The method of Claim 29, further comprising limiting loss of vapor collected from the printhead during capping.